

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Table of Contents** help the reader find key topics in the book in the order that they come.

A table of contents was on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book:

Four things included in the table of contents are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn

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## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Index** is an alphabetical list of almost everything written in the text, with page numbers so you can find the information.

An index was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book:

Two things I found in the index are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn

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Other Books that have an Index:

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Labels** help the reader identify a picture or a photograph or a diagram and its parts.

A label was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book:

It was a label for a \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn

Other Labels Found:

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Photographs** help the reader understand exactly what something looks like.

A photograph was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book:

It was a photograph of a \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn

Other Photographs Found:

# Nonfiction Conventions Handook

**Captions** help the reader better understand a picture or photograph

A caption was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book: \_\_\_\_\_

It was a caption for a \_\_\_\_\_.

It helped me learn \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Captions Found:

# Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Comparisons** help the reader understand the size of one thing by comparing it to the size of something familiar.

A comparison was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book: \_\_\_\_\_

Comparing a \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Comparisons Found:

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Cutaways** help the reader understand something by looking at it from the inside.

A cutaway was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book:

It was a cutaway of a \_\_\_\_\_.

It helped me learn \_\_\_\_\_

Other Cutaways Found:

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Maps** help the reader understand where things are in the world.

A map was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book:

It was a map of a \_\_\_\_\_.

It helped me learn \_\_\_\_\_

Other Maps Found:

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Types of print** help the reader by signaling,  
"Look at me! I'm important!"

Two different types of print I found are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

in the book: \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Types of Print Found:

## Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Close-ups** help the reader see details in  
something small.

A close-up was found on page \_\_\_\_\_

in the book: \_\_\_\_\_

It was a close-up of \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Close-Ups Found:

# Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Glossary** helps the reader understand key words that are in the text.

A glossary was found on page \_\_\_\_\_  
in the book: \_\_\_\_\_

Two things I found on the glossary page are:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_

It helped me learn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Books with Glossaries

# Nonfiction Conventions Handbook

**Tables, charts,** and **graphs** help the reader understand important information by listing it in an organized way.

\* A **table** was found on page \_\_\_\_\_  
in the book \_\_\_\_\_

The table helped me learn  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* A **chart** was found on page \_\_\_\_\_  
in the book \_\_\_\_\_

The chart helped me learn  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* A **graph** was found on page \_\_\_\_\_  
in the book \_\_\_\_\_

The graph helped me learn  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Reading with Meaning, pages 149-150*

Identify what the conventions of nonfiction text are and how they help us as readers. Debbie Miller suggests spending one day on each convention. The teacher should bring in examples of at least five places in nonfiction texts that support that convention. Then the children look for the convention and share them with a partner, small group, whole group. It is not enough to identify the convention and purpose, we must also identify how they help us as readers.

Conventions	Purpose	How they help us as readers
Labels	Help the reader identify a picture or photograph and/or its parts.	
Photographs	Help the reader understand exactly what something looks like.	
Captions	Help the reader better understand a picture or photograph.	
Comparisons	Help the reader understand the size of one thing by comparing it to the size of something familiar.	
Cutaways	Help the reader understand something by looking at it from the inside.	
Maps	Help the reader understand where things are in the world.	
Types of print	Help the reader by signaling, "Look at me! I'm important!"	
Close-Ups	Help the reader see details in something small.	
Table of Contents	Help the reader identify key topics in the book in the order they are presented.	
Index	An alphabetical list of almost everything covered in the text, with page numbers.	
Glossary	Helps the reader define words contained in the text.	

### List of mini lessons for nonfiction texts

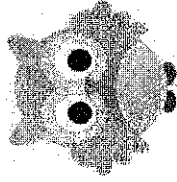
- Scanning
- Skimming
- Accessing the text through the index
- Using headings and signposts to the information we want
- Strolling through the pictures in order to orientate ourselves to the text
- Not reading the text in order
- Accessing the text through the table of contents
- Reading the picture captions
- Activating prior knowledge or schema
- Noting characteristics of text length and structure
- Noting what type of organizational pattern the text is using
- Determining what to read in what order
- Determining what to pay careful attention to
- Determining what to ignore
- Deciding to quit because the text contains no relevant information
- Deciding if text is worth careful reading or just skimming
- Pay attention to surprising information. It might mean you are learning something new.



**Figure 10**

<b>Nonfiction Conventions</b>	
<b>Convention</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Labels</b>	<b>Help the reader identify a picture or photograph and/or its parts</b>
<b>Photographs</b>	<b>Help the reader understand exactly what something looks like</b>
<b>Captions</b>	<b>Help the reader better understand a picture or photograph</b>
<b>Comparisons</b>	<b>Help the reader understand the size of one thing by comparing it to the size of something familiar</b>
<b>Cutaways</b>	<b>Help the reader understand something by looking at it from the inside</b>
<b>Maps</b>	<b>Help the reader understand where things are in the world</b>
<b>Types of print</b>	<b>Help the reader by signaling, "Look at me! I'm important!"</b>
<b>Close-ups</b>	<b>Help the reader see details in something small</b>
<b>Tables of contents</b>	<b>Help the reader identify key topics in the book in the order they are presented</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>An alphabetical list of almost everything covered in the text, with page numbers</b>
<b>Glossary</b>	<b>Helps the reader define words contained in the text</b>

## Magazine Article Response Questions



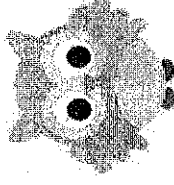
After reading...

1. Write 2 connections.
2. Write 3 new learnings.
3. Write 3 questions you still have.
4. Write 2 new words. Write their definitions.

Nonfiction, think, question, react, discuss, reflect

[amodernteacher.com](http://amodernteacher.com)

## Magazine Article Response Questions



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